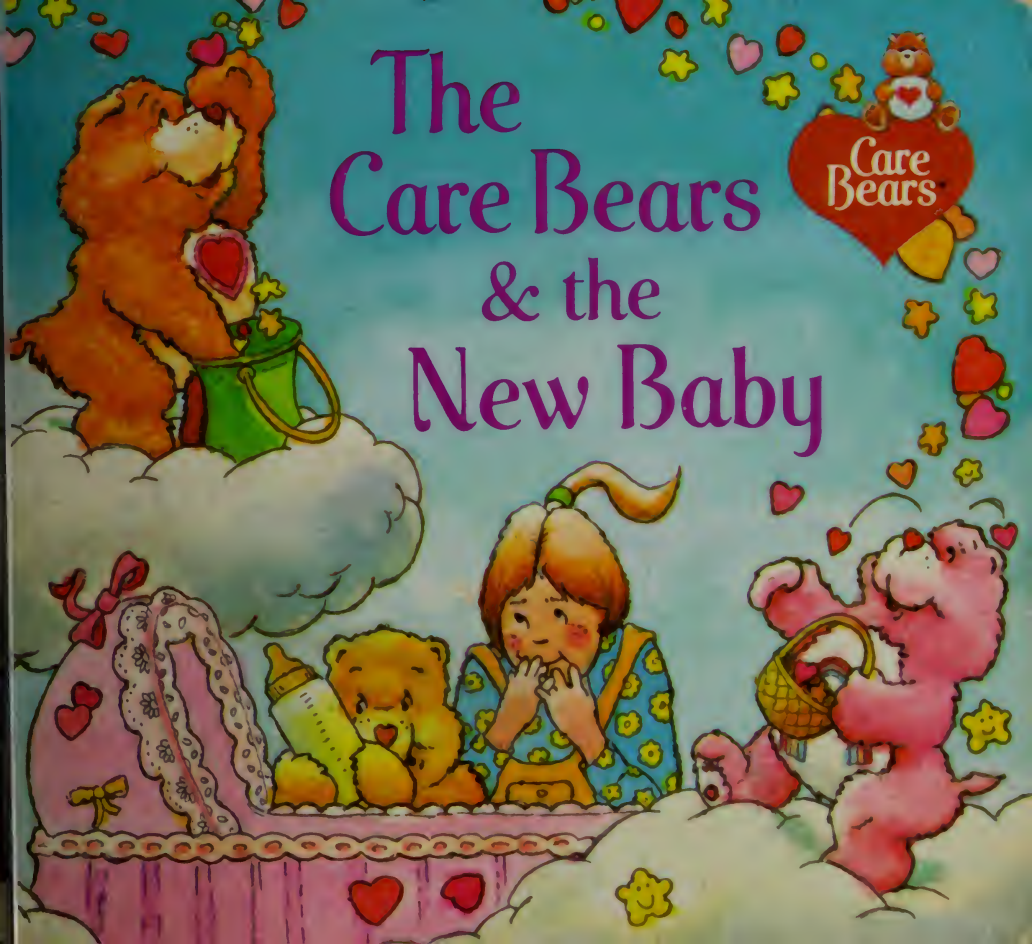
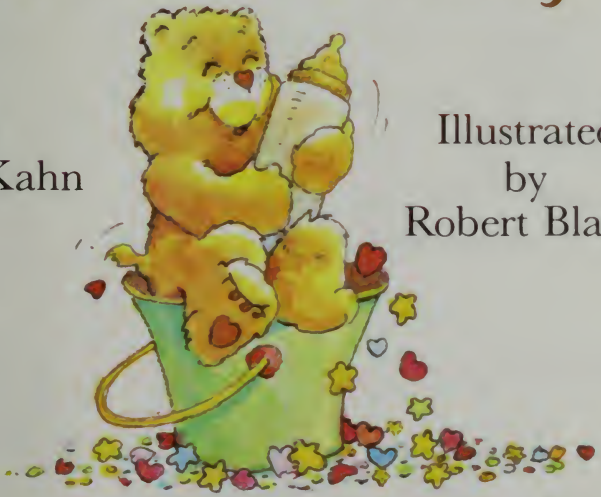

The Care Bears & the New Baby
Care Bears

NRB

The Care Bears & the New Baby

by
Peggy Kahn

Illustrated
by
Robert Blake



A Care Bear™ Book from Random House, New York

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Published in the United States by Random House, Inc., New York, and simultaneously in Canada by Random House of Canada Limited, Toronto. Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 82-61961 ISBN: 0-394-85845-X
Manufactured in the United States of America 7 8 9 0

High up in the sky the Care Bears were playing in their magical land, Care-a-lot. They swung on swings that hung from stars and pranced, danced, and capered across rainbows.

Down below the clouds Jill was wondering about something important. . . .

Her mother was going to have a baby.

"You're a lucky girl, Jill," said Mrs. Jennings, who lived next door. "You'll have your very own playmate!"

Her very own playmate! Jill liked that idea. The baby would be a girl. Jill knew that for sure. She'd teach her how to do cartwheels and somersaults just like she learned in gymnastics class.

When they grew up, they could be the McCann Sisters, Gymnastic Stars!

Jill's mother put Jill's small hand on her big tummy so that she could feel the baby move.

Jill could hardly wait for the baby to be born. "Hurry up!" she whispered to the baby when she cuddled up next to her mom for a story.

In Care-a-lot, Friend Bear was tumbling from one cloud to another when she had a funny feeling. "I think somebody's going to need Care Bears very soon," said Friend Bear. And she was right!

Early that morning, while Jill was still sound asleep, her father phoned Mrs. Jennings. As soon as she arrived, he helped Jill's mother into the car.

The baby was ready to be born!

Birthday Bear never misses a birthday, so he popped into the car just as they drove off.

"How do you feel?" Jill's father asked her mother.

"Very happy," she answered. "A new baby is a wonderful thing."

Birthday Bear thought so too!

Jill begged to stay home, but Mrs. Jennings said she had to go to school.

At school the children were supposed to copy some new spelling words from the board. But all Jill could do was write K-A-T-I-E over and over in her notebook. That's what her mother said they would call the baby if it was a girl. *If?* Imagine that!

Meanwhile, Friend Bear, Cheer Bear, and Tenderheart Bear floated above Jill's house on a puffy cloud.

Because Care Bears are very special Bears, no one even noticed them.

HONEY

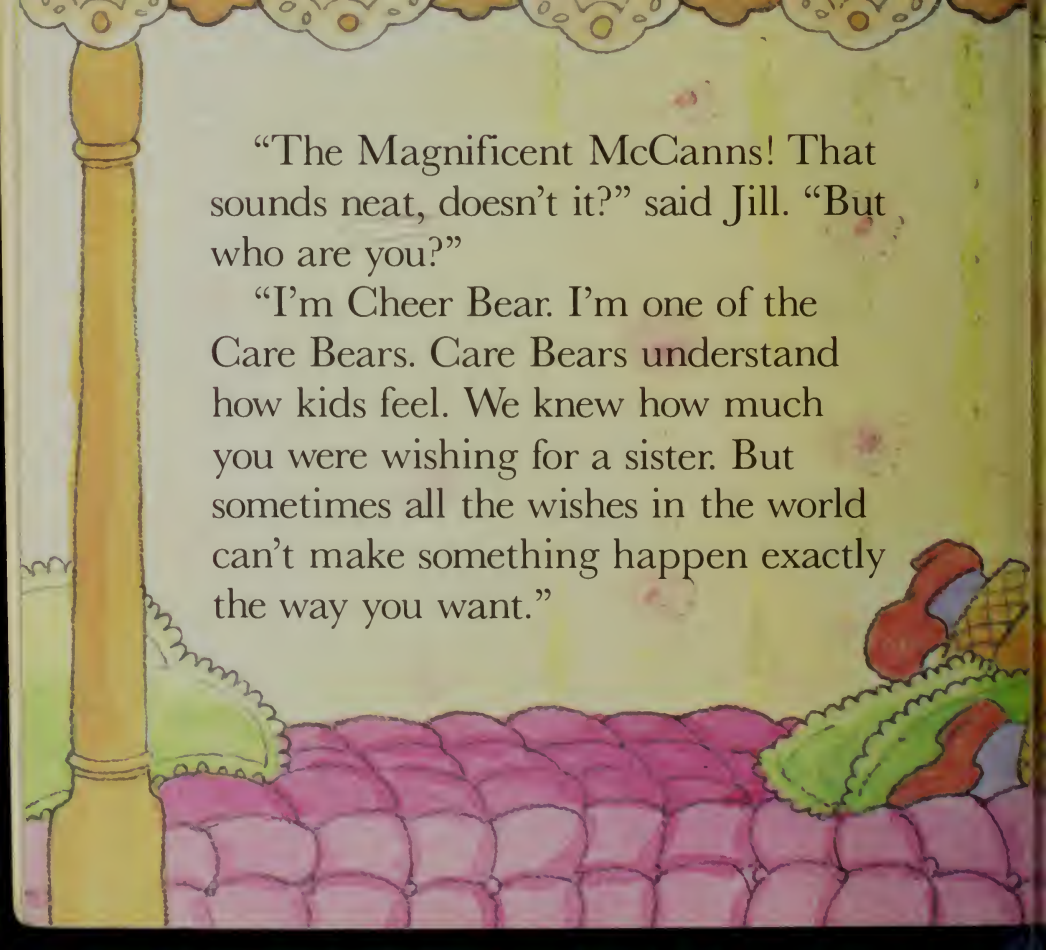
Jill ran home as soon as the lunch bell rang.

"Your father just called," said Mrs. Jennings with a smile. "Your mother is fine, and your little brother is adorable!"

"Little *brother*?" repeated Jill. She went into her room and closed the door.

"Little brother! How can I be the McCann Sisters with some dumb boy?" Tears started to stream down Jill's face.

"You can't," said Cheer Bear. "But boys can do gymnastics too. You could just call yourselves the McCanns. Or maybe . . .the Magnificent McCanns!"



"The Magnificent McCanns! That sounds neat, doesn't it?" said Jill. "But who are you?"

"I'm Cheer Bear. I'm one of the Care Bears. Care Bears understand how kids feel. We knew how much you were wishing for a sister. But sometimes all the wishes in the world can't make something happen exactly the way you want."

"They sure can't," said Jill. She was still a little sad.

"Would you do me a favor?" asked Cheer Bear shyly. "I can do somersaults, but do you think you could teach me how to do cartwheels?"

"Okay," said Jill. "Watch me! It's easy!"

Just as Cheer Bear finally did a perfect cartwheel Mrs. Jennings called Jill for lunch.

"I'd better go now," said Cheer Bear. "Thanks for the lesson, Jill."

"Thank you, Cheer Bear," said Jill.

Cheer Bear blew her a kiss and floated right through the bedroom window.

When Jill sat down for lunch, Tenderheart Bear perched on the edge of the table next to her. He didn't say a word, but with each spoonful of vegetable soup Jill began to feel better and better about her new brother.

By the time Jill finished eating, her tummy was full of good, warm soup and her heart was full of good, warm feelings.

"Mrs. Jennings," asked Jill. "When do you think Mom and my new brother can come home?"

Here come the Care Bears™!

You'll love this cuddly, fun-loving group of Bears who understand just how kids feel and are always ready to help when the going gets bumpy. Get to know them by reading all the books in this series!

Care Bear™ Mini-Storybooks

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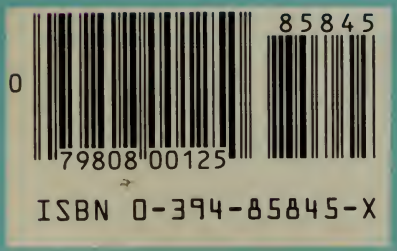
THE CARE BEARS HELP OUT
MEET THE CARE BEARS
THE CARE BEARS & THE NEW BABY



ISBN 0-394-85845-X

Random House $1.25

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